

Editorial

Environmental law is fascism

A jubilant William K. Reilly has just announced record civil and criminal prosecution figures for violations of environmental law.

For fiscal year 1991, a total of 474 civil and criminal cases were referred to the Department of Justice. These netted the bankrupt U.S. government more than \$1 billion in civil litigation judgments and \$14.5 million in fines, plus 550 months of prison terms.

Forty-eight criminal cases were successfully prosecuted, Reilly said, resulting in 72 defendants being convicted and sentenced. Over the fiscal year, "criminal enforcement recorded more than double the jail time served" in previous years. Courts also ordered a record 1,713 months of probation for offenders. Translated into plain English, this means that 72 men and women were declared to be criminals merely because they violated environmental laws.

"Environmental crime is today no less a crime than theft or blackmail or assault. And more and more assuredly, if you do the crime, you'll do the time," Reilly said. Reilly bragged that his Environmental Protection Agency had prepared nearly one major case per day all year and that one Superfund lawsuit is being filed every two and one-half days—the largest number ever prepared and filed in a single fiscal year.

In the past three years, the EPA has referred to the Justice Department criminal cases that represent 53% of all the criminal referrals in the history of the agency. In other words, emitting extra effluent into the atmosphere, or even failing to properly monitor emissions, which are not in violation of the law are being vigilantly prosecuted, while the major banks that profit from the drug traffic are allowed to turn city streets into death camps for our children.

Not only does William Reilly brag about his success in prosecuting citizens who in past periods would have been seen as pillars of their community, but he wishes for a substantial reward. He is demanding a cabinet post as Environmental Czar.

His complaints are loud that the EPA Cabinet Elimination bill is still stuck in committee and according to a statement by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), it will

not be moved out of the House Government Operations Committee, which he chairs, this year.

Reilly said: "Environmental issues have clearly attained a level of importance internationally and in the American public's mind which merits EPA's inclusion in the cabinet. . . . The U.S. Senate has unanimously approved this measure and President Bush has emphasized the need for its passage this year. Just today members of both parties and the environmental community stood together in front of the nation's Capitol in support of immediate action on a clean cabinet bill."

There are real crimes being committed in this country, not only blackmail, assault, murder, but crimes against the unemployed. These crimes remain unpunished.

Honest men and women have lost their jobs due to the deepening depression which we now face, and these men and women are being turned out into the street in states such as Michigan, which no longer offers public assistance to the needy who fall into the general welfare category.

The legislators who passed the law to end general assistance, the politicians in Washington who are spreading the big lie that the U.S. economy is in the midst of a recovery: these are the people who should be brought before the bar of justice. Indeed, the fools in the Congress, who passed the Clean Air Act and similar pieces of environmentalist tomfoolery, are the ones who should at minimum lose their jobs as lawmakers.

Not only are the environmental laws which Reilly is enforcing incompetent and wrongheaded, but most of the people who violate these laws have done so inadvertently rather than willfully. When honest citizens are sent to jail for pseudo-crimes, this is a sure confirmation that our whole judicial system needs an overhaul.

This is, indeed, merely another example of the same fascist justice which has sent Lyndon LaRouche to prison on hoked-up "conspiracy" charges—to serve more than double the amount of time spent in prison by the typical murderer.